

Diploma Thesis Abstract – The President of the Russian Federation

This diploma thesis was written during my study stay in the Russian Federation. When I started working on the thesis, the outside temperature was well below 20 degrees Celsius and, by the time I was finished, the temperatures reached over 30 degrees Celsius. The thesis is based exclusively on sources in Russian, which I could access in the library of the Faculty of Law of the Saint Petersburg State University. The aim was to address the concept of the head of a state in general and, subsequently, to define the basic status of the president of the Russian Federation (RF) from the viewpoint of constitutional laws. The contents of the thesis can be summarised as follows:

The head of the state plays two roles in the Russian constitutional system. Firstly, it is the role of an official entrusted with the task of uniting the RF, co-ordinating the activities of individual public authorities, representing the united voice of Russia both on the international political arena and within the country, and determining the general course of the Russian policy. This part of the president's role is paramount and we can even say that, in the RF, it is rampant. It justifies the calls for the establishment of a separate branch within the separation of powers – the presidential branch. Secondly, the president plays the role of a public body authorised to exercise certain very strong powers falling into all branches of state power; however, the focal point of the president's activities is to head the executive power. By his/her orders, the president controls not only all executive bodies at the level of the Federation and at the level of the individual federal subjects, but also specific persons within this structure. The annual address to the Federal Assembly, including addresses on the budget, enables the president to influence other areas of administration of the country, in which he/she cannot issue direct orders. This mainly concerns the activities of the parliament of the RF and the parliaments of the individual federal subjects.

I expect that my interest in the president of the RF as a legal institution will not wane with the completion of the diploma thesis. Rather, the thesis is intended to provide basic insight into the issue and should serve as a stepping stone for further research of this intriguing phenomenon of the Russian constitutional system.

The keyword of the thesis are as follows:

head of a state, president of the RF, principle of separation of powers